1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Karnataka	186.63	324.17	302.89	599.66
13.	Kerala	243.84	430.12	280.54	559.39
14.	Madhya Pradesh	193.1	327.78	317.16	570.15
15.	Maharashtra	194.94	362.25	328.56	665.9
16.	Orissa	194.03	325.79	298.22	528.49
17.	Punjab	233.79	410.38	253.61	466.16
18.	Rajasthan	215.89	374.57	280.85	559.63
19.	Tamil Nadu	196.53	351.86	296.63	547.42
20.	Uttar Pradesh	213.01	365.84	258.65	483.26
21.	Uttarakhand@		478.02		637.67
22.	West Bengal	220.74	382.82	247.53	449.32
23.	Dadra & N. Haveli	194.94	362.25	328.56	665.9
	ALL INDIA*:	205.84	356.3	281.35	538.6

* The poverty line (implicit) at all-India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons (based on URP-consumption, that is, consumption data collected from 30-day recall period for all items) and the poverty ratio at All-India level. The poverty ratio at All-India is obtained as the weighted average of the State-wise poverty ratio.

@ These States were not constituted during 1993-94.

Unemployment in agricultural and handloom workers

1359. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that unemployment in agricultural labour and loss of livelihood among handloom workers has risen glaringly; and

(b) if so, what are the steps contemplated by Government to increase employment in the two sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the 2001 Census report, the number of agricultural labourers has increased from 8.60 crore to 10.68 crore as compared to 1991 Census. With regard to the handloom sector, it provides employment to about 65 lakh handloom weavers and allied workers. In order to sustain the employment of weavers in Handloom Sector, the Government of India has introduced Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme to be implemented during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. These schemes will enable the handloom weavers to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance their income and socio-economic status by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. Further, to increase employment opportunities in rural areas, the Ministry of Rural Development through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations implements a number of Centrally

Sponsored Schemes for employment generation for people living in rural areas of the country. The programmes are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for self employment, Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) for wage employment.

To provide more self employment opportunities to the BPL families, including handloom workers the SGSY is already being implemented in all the districts of the country which covers all aspects of self employment such as organization of poor in self help groups and their capacity building training, selection of activities, technology and marketing support etc. Similarly for willing rural households including agricultural workers, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005 is presently being implemented in 330 districts of the country and would be extended to the remaining districts *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2008. The objective of NREGA is to ensure that local employment is provided to every willing rural household for at least 100 days in a financial year and the process of employment generation is used for building durable asserts, strengthening of livelihood resource based of rural poor.

Closure of Swajaldhara Programme

1360. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to close Swajaldhara Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for meeting the needs of village level committees who have already deposited community contribution for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The principles of Swajaldhara have been incorporated under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The decision on quantum of funds to be used on rural water supply schemes based on Swajaldhara principles and also the share of community contribution has been left to the discretion of the respective States. The funding pattern under the scheme is 50:50 between the Centre and the State. The States can institutionalize and encourage community contribution as per local conditions as percentage component of their share. This change has been made on the recommendations made in the review conference of the State Ministers held in January, 2006. The State Governments have been requested to take up all such schemes for which community contribution has already been deposited under ARWSP on priority basis.

Taking out rural connectivity works from NREGA

1361. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government propose to take out rural connectivity from the list of recommended types of work under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;